

216944US-3 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Shinji NAGASHIMA : ATTN: NEW APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION :

FILED: HERewith :

FOR: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD
AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application
as follows:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, lines 1-2, delete "AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS" :

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Cross-Reference to Related Applications:

This application is a divisional application of, and claims priority to, Serial Number
09/611,664 filed June 6, 2000, and claims priority to Japanese Application No. JP 11-193671
filed July 7, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 11-16 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 USC § 120 to, parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/611,664 ("the parent application").

The above preliminary amendment amends the title to be consistent with the elected claims. The above preliminary amendment also cancels Claims 11-16, elected in the parent application.

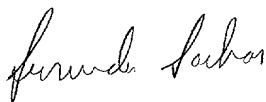
Furthermore, Claims 1-10 are drawn to a substrate processing method, which was identified as non-elected Group I in the Restriction Requirement made in the parent application. Therefore, the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121 applies so that it is prohibited to use "a patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction has been made . . . as a reference against any divisional application."¹

¹MPEP 804.01

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-10 is believed to be in order, and
an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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